

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04086 240826Z

11

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 SAM-01 MC-02

EB-11 TRSE-00 /185 W

----- 123931

R 240735Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0997

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

USCINCEUR

CONFIDENTIAL KUWAIT 4086

TEHRAN ALSO FOR SOBER

FROM AMBASSADOR WOLLE MUSCAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MU

SUBJECT: BRIEFING ON DHOFAR WAR

REF: MUSCAT A-46

SUMMARY: VISITING DEPT ASST SEC SOBER AND AMBASSADOR BRIEFED AT
SAF HEADQUARTERS SEPT 18 ON PROGRESS DHOFAR WAR. PICTURE PAINTED
WAS ONE OF UNINTERRUPTED MILITARY PROGRESS IN PAST YEAR OR MORE,
STEADY BUILDUP OF FRIENDLY FORCES INCLUDING RECORD DEFECTS FROM
ENEMY RANKS, AND OPTIMISM ABOUT FALL/WINTER CAMPAIGN (THOUGH NO
SPECIFICS ABOUT IT). DESCRIBED IRANIAN FORCES AS VERY WELL
EQUIPPED BUT OF STILL UNPROVEN ABILITY. SAF LEADERSHIP DOES NOT
THINK PDRY ARMOR POSES CREDIBLE THREAT TO DHOFAR AND IS CONTENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 04086 240826Z

WITH ITS OWN PRESENT ANTI-TANK DEFENCES. END SUMMARY.

1. IN BRIEFING CONDUCTED BY BRIG. C. C. MAXWELL, DEPUTY COS OF SULTAN'S ARMED FORCES (SAF), AND HIS G-1 OFFICER (COS MAJOR GEN CREASEY UNFORTUNATELY ON LEAVE), EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON VERY FAVORABLE MILITARY TRENDS AND CIVIL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY THIS YEAR. MAXWELL, WHOSE EXPERIENCE IN OMAN GOES BACK TWO DECADES, SAID HE IS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN EVER ABOUT PROSPECTS IN DHOFAR. SAID ENEMY HARD-CORE PERSONNEL DOWN TO ABOUT 180 IN WESTERN SECTOR AND BETWEEN 150-200 IN COMBINED CENTRAL AND EASTERN SECTORS. WHOLE REMAINING ENEMY UNITS STILL WELL ORGANIZED AND HAVE COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY, THEIR COMMO AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AND SPARES GREATLY CURTAILED BY HORNBEAM LINE BLOCKADE, AMMO IS SHORT, AND IN SOME PLACES THEY ARE ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTY FINDING OR BUYING FOOD. ENEMY IS DEFECTING IN RECORD NUMBERS, WITH 268 SO FAR IN 1974. THEY COME IN ALONE, OR OCCASIONALLY IN PAIRS. HORNBEAM LINE IS DISTINCT SUCCESS. WHILE ONE OR TWO FAIR-SIZED CAMEL TRAIN BREAKTHROUGHS OCCURRED EARLY 1974 BEFORE LINE WAS COMPLETE, RECENT PENETRATIONS LIMITED TO SMALL HANDFUL ENEMY PERSONNEL WITH VERY LIMITED BACKPACK SUPPLY CAPABILITY. INTERDICTION OF ENEMY SUPPLY CONCENTRATIONS INCLUDING CAMEL TRAINS BY SAF STRKEMASTERS HAS CONTINUED DURING MONSOON SEASON WHENEVER WEATHER IN WESTERN JABAL AREAS PERMITTED.

2. CIVIL DEVELOPMENT IN LARGEY CLEARED EASTERN SECTOR, AND TO SOME EXTENT CENTRAL AREA, EXPANDING CONSTANTLY. NUMBER OF BASIC REHAB WORKS AND PROGRAMS BEING TURNED OVER TO OMANI CIVIL MINISTRIES THIS MONTH. IN SOME CIVIL DEVELOPMENT CENTERS, OMANI FORCES AND REHAB COORDINATORS STAYED IN THEIR POSITIONS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER MONSOON SEASON FOR FIRST TIME. THIS SUSTAINED PRESENCE HAS GREATLY IMPRESSED JABALI TRIBESMEN AND HAS SPURRED THEIR COOPERATION.

3. IRANIAN FORCES HAVE BEEN STATIONARY SINCE QTE ALMOST BY SHEER FORCE OF NUMBERS UNQTE THEY CLEARED MAIN SALALAH-MIDWAY ROAD LAST WINTER. THEY ARE VERY WELL AND HEAVILY ARMED, BUT TEND TO STAY IN FIXED POSITIONS AND ENGAGE WHATEVER MOVES RATHER THAN UNDERTAKE MUCH PATROLLING. THEY WILL HAVE FIRST OPPORTUNITY PROVE THEIR REAL METTLE IF ASSIGNED TO MORE ACTIVE FORWARD DUTY IN COMING FALL OFFENSIVE, SUCH AS ROOTING OUT ENEMY SUPPLY CACHES IN WESTERN JABAL. IRANIANS NEED TO GAIN EXPERIENCE, THOUGH CAN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 04086 240826Z

HARDLY BE DESCRIBED AS SPOILING FOR MORE ACTION.

4. JORDANIAN ENGINEERING COMPANY HAS BEEN MOVED TO SOUTHERN PART OF HORNBEAM LINE AND ONTO VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN SALALAH PALIN, AFTER COMPLETION THEIR FENCING AND (LESS SO) MINING WORK ALONG LINE'S NORTHERN SEGMENT. THEY ARE STILL SHORT OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT (BULLDOZERS, SCRAPERS AND THE LIKE). SAF IS TRYING TO FIND SOME

FOR THEM, BUT 18 MONTH LEAD TIME ON DELIVERY NEW ITEMS MAKES THIS ROUTE IMPOSSIBLE.

5. BRIEFERS OFFERED NO SPECIFICS ON COMING OFFENSIVE, BEYOND SAYING THEY EXPECTED ADDITIONAL IRANIAN FORCES, PERHAPS A BATTALION, IN ADDITION TO F-5 AIRCRAFT BASED AT MIDWAY WHEN HARDENING OF AIRSTRIP COMPLETED THIS WINTER. MAXWELL PERSONALLY FEELS WAR WILL WIND DOWN GRADUALLY AS GUERRILLA WARFARE USUALLY DOES RATHER THAN HAVE A FIXED ENDING BASED ON SPECIFIC MILITARY VICTORY OR CAMPAIGN.

6. WE LEARNED SAF HAD DECIDED FEW DAYS BEFORE AGAINST PROCEEDING WITH PURCHASE THROUGH COMMERCIAL CHANNEL OF AMERICAN-MADE SENSOR EQUIPMENT, MAINLY BECAUSE ONE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF SENFOR PACKAGE IS OUT OF PRODUCTION. SAF DOES WANT FOLLOW THROUGH ON REQUEST FOR CLAYMORE MINES (ONE THOUSAND UNITS) AND M-79 GRENADE LAUNCHERS (250 LAUNCHERS AND FIFTY THOUSAND GRENADES). SEPTEL WILL GO INTO THIS.

7. BECAUSE OF ACTIVE TOW ISSUE, SOBER SOUGHT SAF VIEW OF DEGREE OF CURRENT PDRY TANK THREAT AND SAF ANTI-TANK DEFENCES. RESPONSE WAS THAT THREAT IS VERY LOW AND THAT INTELLIGENCE INDICATES NO SUCH PDRY PREPARATIONS. BRIEFERS SAID ONLY POSSIBLE TERRAIN AT ALL SUITABLE FOR ARMOR WOULD BE WELL NORTH OF HABARUT SUCH AS AROUND MADINAT SHAHIN. SAID GROUND EVEN THERE IS SOFT IN PLACES AND WOULD NEED CAREFUL GOING. SAF DEFENCES IN MADINAT SHAHIN AREA ARE FOUR 106 RECOILLESS RIFLES, WITH STRIKEMASTERS FROM SALALAH AS BACKUP. SAF CONSIDERS THIS SUFFICIENT; COULD PERHAPS USE MORE 106S BUT IS TAKING NO PRESENT STEPS TO OBTAIN THEM. ASKED IF TANKS COULD THREATEN MIDWAY ITSELF, REPLIED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN ADVANCE THAT FAR THROUGH THEORETICALLY ARMOR QTE COULD MAKE IT UNQTE OVER INTERVENING TERRAIN.

STOLTZFUS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, DHOFAR WAR, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 SEP 1974
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KUWAIT04086
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740268-0216
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740919/aaaaaqfh.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MUSCAT A-46
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING ON DHOFAR WAR
TAGS: MOPS, MU, JO, (SOBER, SIDNEY), (MAXWELL, C C)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005